



Assemblymember Gloria Negrete McLeod's Newsletter

A MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER TO THE 61st ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
(Including Chino, Montclair, Ontario and Pomona)

DECEMBER 2003 ISSUE

In the Legislature...

Governor Schwarzenegger Declares State of Emergency

After Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued an executive order to rescind the Vehicle License Fee increase, the burden of California's budget crisis shifted from the wallets of the people to the wallets of cities. The VLF increase is triggered when the State is in financial crisis to help generate much needed revenue. These monies go primarily to the local municipalities to help fund essential programs like fire departments, police departments, and other city administered programs. Since the issued order from the Governor, cities have had to tighten their belts and use their reserved funds to make up for the \$2.65 billion loss from the VLF increase.

Until 1998, tax revenue from the vehicle license fee flowed almost entirely into municipal funds. But after a 68 percent lowering of the tax spearheaded by Sen. Tom McClintock (R-Thousand Oaks), the state agreed to reimburse cities and counties for the money they would have otherwise lost because of the reduction.

On December 18, the Governor bypassed the Legislature and used his newly given unilateral authority and ordered an "emergency expenditure" so that local communities will begin receiving the \$2.6 billion they are due from the vehicle license fee cut. The Governor also ordered \$150 million in immediate cuts to health and welfare services that do not require legislative approval. These "emergency expenditures" will be made by the state controller as ordered by the governor, starting with the disbursement of \$40 million scheduled to be sent on December 26th.

New Assembly Speaker Named

Congratulations to my colleague and friend, Assemblymember Fabian Nuñez, representing the 46th Assembly District, has been chosen by the Assembly Democratic Caucus to be the next Speaker of the California Assembly. Speaker Herb Wesson will be stepping down early next year when the Legislature goes back into session. A formal vote confirming the intention of the caucus should take place in early January.

Ontario Library Ground Breaking

On Tuesday, December 2, 2003, Ontario's main library broke ground on its expansion and renovation. The funds totaling \$14 million will allow the library to make improvements that will benefit the entire community. The new library will have a total of 58,000 square feet, which will allow room for an additional 22 computers and a café. The new library with its expanded collection is scheduled to open in May 2005.

Holiday Open House



Douglas Glaeser, Director of Governmental and External Affairs of Cal Poly (left), Assemblywoman Gloria Negrete McLeod (center) and Michael Ortiz, President of Cal Poly Pomona (right).

On Thursday, December 18, 2003, we hosted a Toys for Tots Open House. Residents of the 61st District stopped by our office to discuss legislative issues. The generous toy donations made the holidays brighter for children in our district, as the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation distributed the toys to local children in need.

Upcoming Events in January

You are cordially invited to a Cal Grant Workshop on Saturday, January 24, 2004 at Ontario High School Cafeteria. For more information please call the District Office at (909) 621-2783.

Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year to you and your family.

Assemblymember Negrete McLeod's Committee Assignments

Chair, Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security Committee
Co-Chair, Legislative Ethics Committee
Appropriations Committee
Governmental Organization Committee
Health Committee
Higher Education Committee
Labor and Employment Committee

Chair, Select Committee on Alameda Corridor East
Select Committee on CA Horse Racing Association
Select Committee on Community Colleges
Select Committee on Future of Farming in CA
Select Committee on Gang Violence and Juvenile Crimes
Select Committee on Groundwater Quality and Availability
Select Committee on Rural Economic Development
Select Committee on Water Management, Storage, Conservation and Supply

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Please check out our new on-line legislative survey!

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